

The United States and Japan will work constructively with our international partners, in particular the major energy consuming nations, to promote the commercialization of advanced clean energy technologies. In this regard, we will also use the G8, the UNFCCC, the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, the International Energy Agency, APEC, the Commission of Sustainable Development, and other multilateral partnerships. We reaffirm the goals of the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (3R) Initiative set at the G8 Summit at Sea Island in 2004. This includes the reduction of barriers to the international flow of goods and materials for recycling and remanufacturing, recycled and remanufactured products, and cleaner, more efficient technologies, consistent with existing environmental and trade obligations and frameworks. We also note that a report on the Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development will be received at the G8 summit meeting to be hosted by Japan in 2008.

We will also endeavor under the Montreal Protocol to ensure the recovery of the ozone layer to pre-1980 levels by accelerating the phase-out of HCFCs in a way that supports energy efficiency and climate change objectives. We will continue to exercise leadership in the development of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

The United States and Japan recognize the value of our bilateral High-Level Consultations on Climate Change and will enhance, strengthen, and streamline that dialogue. The United States will send a delegation of senior-level officials to Japan before the G8 Summit in June to discuss further implementation of this statement.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

### **Statement on North Korea Freedom Week**

*April 27, 2007*

I send greetings to all those observing North Korea Freedom Week. Those living in North Korea regrettably know firsthand the meaning of deprivation of freedom. I

have met in the Oval Office with some of the courageous few who have managed to escape from the country. I have heard firsthand accounts of their suffering in North Korea and of their dangerous journeys to freedom. And I have seen how they now live in freedom's light. We will continue to strengthen our commitment to bring freedom to all repressed peoples. I believe the 21st century will be freedom's century for all Koreans. One day every citizen of that peninsula will live in dignity, freedom, and prosperity at home and in peace with their neighbors abroad. Until that day comes, we will not rest in our efforts to support the North Korean people as they strive to achieve the rights and freedoms to which they are entitled as human beings.

### **Proclamation 8134—National Charter Schools Week, 2007**

*April 27, 2007*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Across our country, charter schools are providing quality education for America's students. During National Charter Schools Week, we recognize the important contributions of charter schools and underscore our commitment to ensuring that all children receive the education they need to lead lives of purpose and success.

Charter schools are public schools that provide families with a valuable educational alternative. Because they are not bound by many regulatory requirements, charter schools have the flexibility to innovate in ways that will best meet students' academic needs. Today, there are about 4,000 charter schools in 40 States and the District of Columbia helping more than one million students realize their full potential.

My Administration is dedicated to providing parents with more choices so that their children will have the best opportunity to gain the skills necessary to compete and succeed in the global economy. Through the No Child Left Behind Act, we are setting high standards, expanding parents' options, and

closing the achievement gap. Charter schools are getting results and helping guide children across the country on the path to a better life.

This week we thank educational entrepreneurs for supporting charter schools, and we honor all those involved in charter schools for helping their students reach high expectations.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 29 through May 5, 2007, as National Charter Schools Week. I applaud our Nation's charter schools and all those who make them a success, and I call on parents of charter school students to share their success stories and help Americans understand more about the important work of charter schools.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:00 a.m., April 30, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 1.

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## Digest of Other White House Announcements

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### April 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, at the Washington Hilton Hotel, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

### April 23

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Later, he had an intelligence briefing. Then, in the Situation Room, he participated in a briefing by Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson to discuss the findings of the Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes.

### April 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to New York City, where, upon arrival in the afternoon, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Charles "Chick" Lemonick.

Later in the afternoon, the President toured Harlem Village Academy Charter School and met with students, parents, and teachers to discuss charter schools. Later, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, he participated in an interview with Charlie Rose of PBS's "Charlie Rose." He then met with Gov. Eliot Spitzer of New York.

In the evening, at a private residence, the President attended a Republican National Committee dinner. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt of Sweden to the White House on May 15.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will travel to Heiligendamm, Germany, to attend the G-8 Summit on June 6-8. Prior to the Summit, the President will visit Prague, Czech Republic, on June 5 for meetings with President Vaclav Klaus and Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek of the Czech Republic. Following the G-8, the President will travel to Jurata, Poland, on June 8 for a meeting with President Lech Kaczyński of Poland. On June 9, he will visit the Vatican for his first meeting with Pope Benedict XVI, and Rome, Italy, for meetings with President Giorgio Napolitano and Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy. The President will then proceed to Tirana, Albania, on June 10 to meet